

Launching the JHSV | Eliminating the Bite | Ensuring Regional Security

The Official U.S. Army Magazine

August 2007
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Soldiers

Old Guard In Djibouti



LOYALTY
The Second Poster in the Revised
Army Values Posters Series
— Inside Back Cover



Cover Story — Page 20
Spc. Sam Bitner of the 3rd
U.S. Infantry (The Old Guard)
provides security for Navy
Seabees building a school in
Djibouti. — *Photo by Spc. Nancy
Van Der Weide*

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Soldiers

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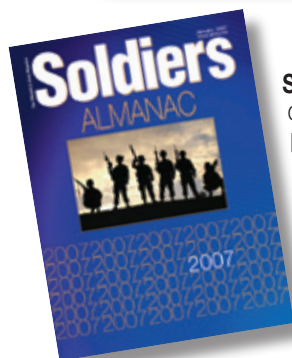
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NAGC Blue Pencil
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Clearing the Roads

THANKS for the June article "Clearing the Roads." Staff Sgt. Durney did a great job of explaining the important role that National Guard Soldiers play in helping to reduce the casualties and damage caused by IEDs in Iraq.

In my experience, driving along an Iraqi road as part of a convoy can be one of the scariest things a Soldier can experience — not knowing if you're going to get hit, and having to stay at 110-percent awareness for hours on end can drain you like you'd been in a major firefight.

I appreciate the work that combat engineers like the ones in Staff Sgt. Durney's article do every day in Iraq. To all of you — thanks for a job well done!

Name withheld by request
via e-mail

HAVING deployed to Iraq twice, I read the June article "Clearing the Roads" with special interest. Staff Sgt. Chris Durney really captured what it feels like to do a route-clearance patrol.

I think the picture at the top of page 15 is especially important, since it shows a lot of civilian vehicles waiting for the combat engineers to clear the road. Most Americans don't realize how important our route-clearance operations are to the day-to-day activities of average Iraqis. They rely on us to clear the roads that they have to use, and if we didn't clear them life in Iraq would be a lot harder for civilians than it already is.

Sgt. 1st Class B.J. Johnson
via e-mail

Emeril and Soldier Recipes

GREAT piece in the June issue about Emeril Lagasse featuring Soldiers' recipes.

I've been a huge fan of Emeril for a long time, and not just because he's entertaining and a great chef. He really seems to support the folks in uniform, and goes out of his way to include Soldiers and other servicemembers in his audiences.

I also can't wait to try a few of the recipes myself!

HT2 (SS) Jack Willers, USN
via e-mail

No D-Day?

JUST finished the June issue, which I thought was very well done ... except for one glaring omission — why was there no mention of D-Day?

The men who fought and died on the Normandy beaches 63 years ago deserve to be remembered, and the stories of their bravery should be retold every year.

Henry Alston
via e-mail

WE wholeheartedly agree that the bravery and sacrifices of those who fought to secure the Allies' foothold in Nazi-occupied Europe should be remembered and celebrated. And in years past we have run many articles about D-Day and the brave servicemembers who took part in what remains to this day the largest and most complex amphibious landing ever conducted.

However, our nation is again at war, and we felt that this year it was more important to report on the accomplishments and sacrifices of a new generation of Soldiers.

And we did not ignore D-Day — page 47 of the June issue focuses on the dedication of the new Normandy American Cemetery Visitor Center, a facility that will introduce new generations of visitors to the history of Operation Overlord and those who conducted it.

BCT Feedback

READING your May articles about the current state of Army Basic Combat Training, I couldn't help but mutter to myself what all old Soldiers always seem to mutter: "Back in my day, basic was really tough...."

But I also have to say that Sgt. Maj. Larry Lane did a great job of showing and telling us what basic is like for this new generation of Soldiers — the ones who will almost certainly go straight from advanced training to combat in Iraq or Afghanistan. I just hope that we're doing the best job we can to prepare them for what lies ahead.

Lt. Col. Bob Pierpont (Ret.)
via e-mail

Remembering the Fallen

I REALLY enjoyed the June articles "Remembering

the Fallen" and "Where Valor Rests." They were excellent reminders that many Americans have given their lives to shape and maintain the freedoms we all enjoy. They should also help us all remember that freedom isn't free, and maintaining the free society in which we are privileged to live costs us dearly.

Janice Rolle
via e-mail

THANKS for the May article "Where Valor Rests." It was a beautiful and moving look at Arlington Cemetery, and a wonderful tribute to those who have died in service to the country.

I could not help but wonder, though, how many more white headstones will spring up, and how many more folded flags will be handed to grieving families, before this hard but necessary war against terror ends.

Col. Steven Wiley (Ret.)
via e-mail

Victims' Voices

"VOICE for the Victims" in the May issue was very powerful and very moving. The inset picture on page 20 was especially evocative, and more than a little disturbing, as it should be.

Thanks to Heike Hasenauer and David Hempenstall for a great story.

Sgt. Justin Lee
via e-mail

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Army Commissions a New Generation of Officers

Story by Mr. Steve Harding

AMONG the seven Army initiatives that Chief of Staff Gen. George W. Casey has said are vital for balancing the Army's strategic requirements and resources is the need to improve leader development. And over the past two months he has taken the opportunity to express his views in person to newly commissioned Army officers.

During remarks at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y.; and at commissioning ceremonies for ROTC cadets at Lehigh University in Bethlehem, Pa., and Georgetown

University in Washington, D.C., Gen. Casey told the new lieutenants that one of the Army's most pressing needs is to field trained, educated and capable young officers.

"This is a time of peril for our country," he said at West Point. "We are engaged in a long-term struggle with a ruthless enemy. They won't quit until they are defeated."

Speaking about the changing nature of warfare in a post-9/11 world, he pointed out that new officers — whether commissioned through ROTC, West Point or Officer

Candidate School — must possess a range of skills that go far beyond the tactical proficiency and management abilities expected of all Army leaders.

"We already know that the Army produces well-trained and highly competent warfighters well grounded in the warrior ethos," he said at the Lehigh ceremony, "but ongoing operations in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere in the world have shown us that we must do a better job of producing 'pentathlete leaders.'"

Such leaders, he said, are those who possess sharply honed warfighting skills and are also versatile, mentally agile and culturally aware. Business acumen and governance skills are also important, given the nation-building activities in which the Army is increasingly involved.

"Today's Army leaders operate in environments that are vastly different from those we encountered even 10 years ago," he said. "Our Army undertakes a range of missions that go beyond our traditional warfighting role, and we must develop and implement new skill sets that better prepare our leaders to succeed in these new environments."

◀ President George W. Bush congratulates newly commissioned members of the Reserve Officer Training Corps on May 17, in the East Room of the White House, after Secretary of Defense Robert Gates administered the commissioning oath.



Eric Draper

Acknowledging that new officers face a range of immediate challenges, the chief of staff went on to share with the graduating West Point cadets three points he believes are essential for them to bear in mind as they begin their careers.

The first, he said, to the laughter and applause of the cadets, is “that there’s hope for all of you.”

In a more serious vein, Gen. Casey continued by saying: “The second point is that you’re entering an organization that is at war and that is the best in the world. And the third is that leaders of character matter.”

Among the ways the Army is seeking to develop those leaders of character is through the introduction of broader skill sets implemented via new blocks of instruction for ROTC cadets, said Lt. Col. Charles M. McClung, head of Lehigh University’s Department of Military Science and Leadership.

“We want to produce young officers who are non-linear thinkers and who can adapt quickly to rapidly changing situations,” he said. “The U.S. Army Cadet Command, which oversees Army ROTC programs nationwide, has adapted existing courses of instruction to more accurately reflect real-world cultural and political conditions, and we put a much greater emphasis on awareness of other cultures.”

To better prepare all its young leaders for the challenges of irregular and asymmetric warfare, the Army has recently added training in such areas as counterinsurgency, cultural awareness, foreign languages and negotiation skills. Personnel officials said the goal is to produce young officers who are comfortable handling such diverse tasks as working with local community leaders, communicating in the host-nation’s language and

► During the West Point events, Gen. Casey is presented a commemorative saber by class president Cadet John Enderle.

managing humanitarian-assistance programs, all while providing the competent tactical leadership necessary to ensure the security of their areas of operation.

Noting that within the past few weeks some 4,000 young men and women have pinned on the gold bars of an Army second lieutenant — 23 of them at a May 18 White House ceremony hosted by President George W. Bush — Gen. Casey said that the nation and the Army are proud of the newest generation of Army officers.

“You are entering into a brotherhood and sisterhood of respect earned by those who have come before you,” he told the West Point cadets. He then challenged them with a question: “How do you build a unit whose members are not only confident that they will prevail against the toughest possible enemy in adverse conditions, but are then able to go out and do it?”

“I won’t give you the answers,” he said, “but I will provide you with

a couple of clues — leadership, discipline and standards.

“You are answering your country’s call during a very challenging time in our history,” he added. “You will face adversity and danger, but we know that you will prevail. The Army and the nation thank you for what you have done, and for what you will do in the years to come.” ■

Jennifer Mills, J. Mills Designs



▲ Army Chief of Staff Gen. George W. Casey Jr. speaks to newly commissioned ROTC officers at Lehigh University about leadership and the responsibilities of command.

John Pellino



PREPARING FOR

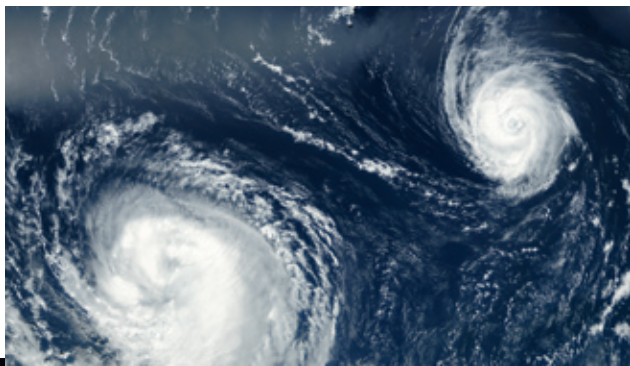
Hurricane

Story and Photos by Mr. Don Wagner

It was a chilling scenario: “Hurricane Yvette,” with wind gusts up to 130 mph and 9-to-12-foot wave surges, was bearing down on the nation’s northeast coast.

The Category-3 hurricane had New England residents and emergency responders braced for the worst. Federal and state officials scrambled to the Cranston Street Armory in Providence, R.I., to prepare for the hurricane and manage recovery efforts in its aftermath.

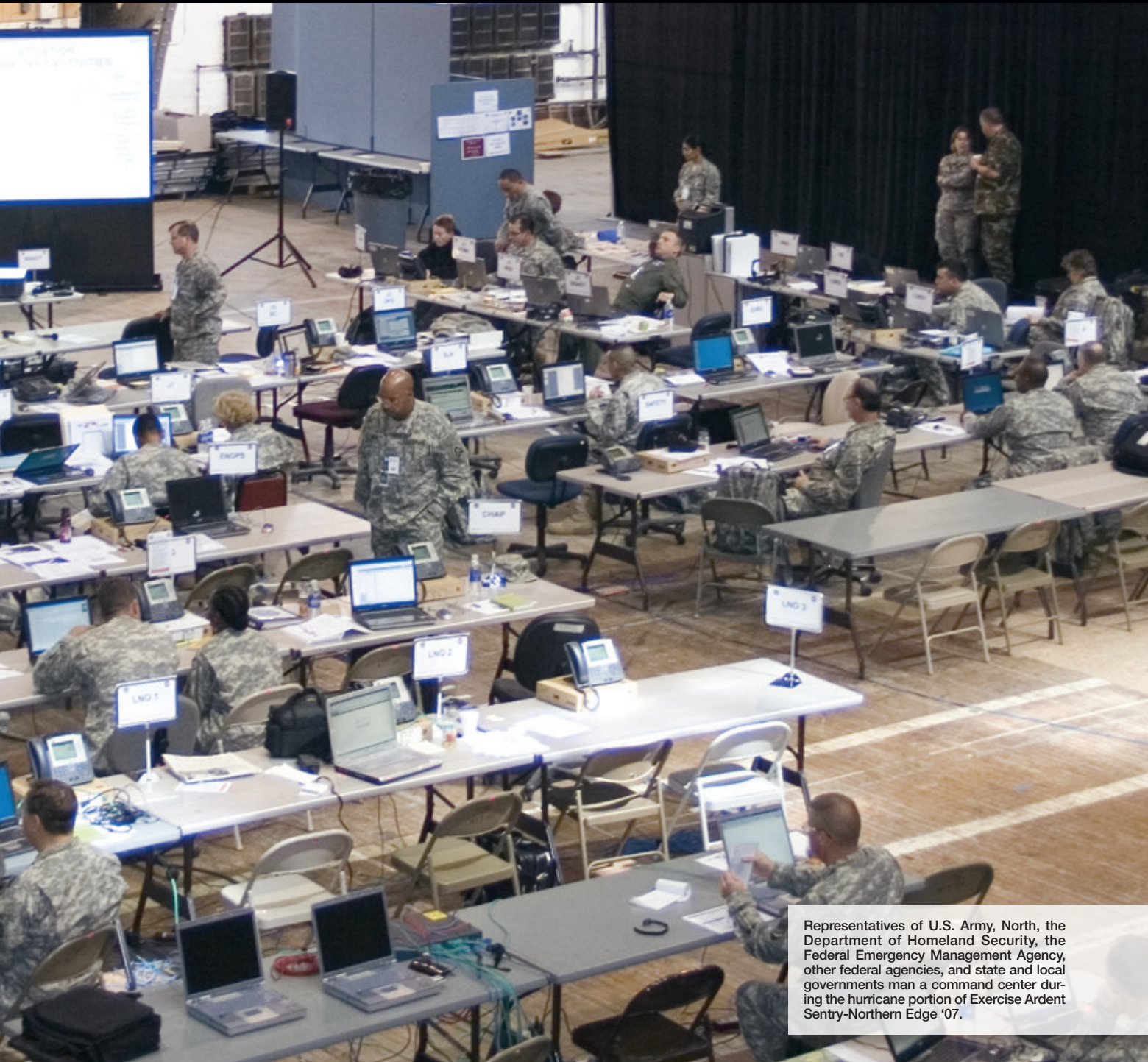
Fortunately for all concerned, Hurricane Yvette was only part of Exercise Ardent Sentry-Northern Edge '07, which was conducted across the country earlier this year. The hurricane portion of the exercise involved the six New England states, New York, Federal Emergency Management Regions I and II, and numerous federal agencies. The exercise was meant to test the full range of domestic hurricane-response, incident-management procedures under the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s National Response Plan



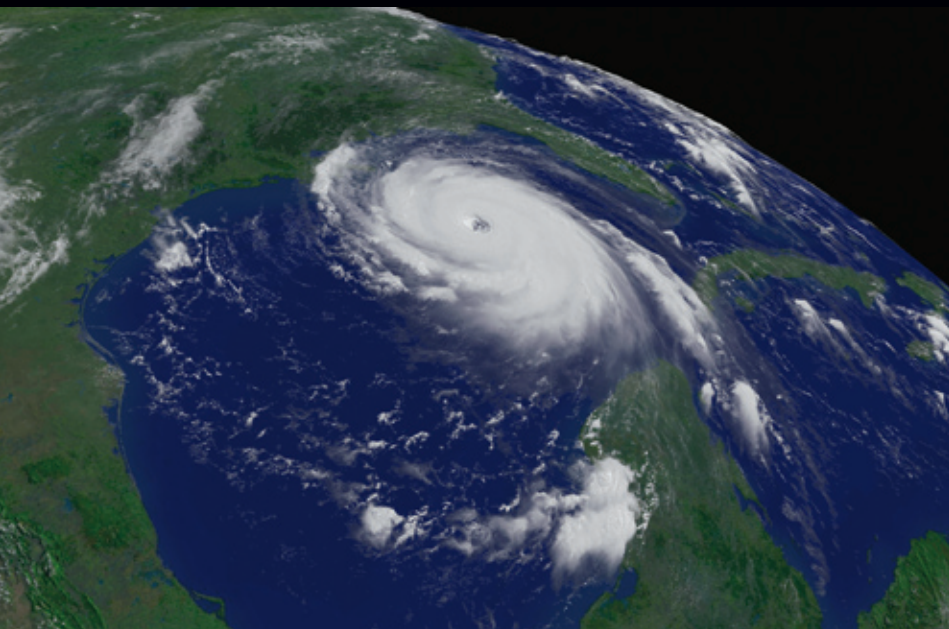
Hurricanes Gordon and Helene 2006



Season



Representatives of U.S. Army, North, the Department of Homeland Security, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, other federal agencies, and state and local governments man a command center during the hurricane portion of Exercise Ardent Sentry-Northern Edge '07.



Hurricane Katrina
— NOAA

and the 2007 Hurricane Concept of Operations Plan.

The event was the capstone of preparations for what National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration officials predict will be a “very active” Atlantic hurricane season that could produce up to 16 named storms between June 1 and Nov. 30.

U.S. Northern Command co-sponsored the hurricane-preparedness event with the Department of

Homeland Security, FEMA and the Department of Defense. It was the largest and most complex exercise NORTHCOM has yet undertaken in terms of participants, duration, venues and cost.

From Fort Sam Houston, Texas, U.S. Army, North — NORTHCOM’s Army service component command — responded to the simulated hurricane by deploying to Providence its Operational Command Post 2 (organized as Joint Task Force-Falcon) and the Region I Defense Coordinating Officer and Element.

For the first time, USARNORTH

Exercise planners and participants review new data as the “hurricane” barrels down on the East Coast. The scenario envisioned damaging waves and high winds.



The command center at the Cranston Street Armory in Providence, R.I., was the scene of constant activity as exercise participants dealt with the effects of the “hurricane.”

worked side-by-side with its federal and local counterparts in a civil-support role that previously had only been simulated.

“There is no substitute for getting on the ground and working with our partners,” said Brig. Gen. Mark Graham, USARNORTH’s deputy commanding general.

“Deploying the command-and-control elements was valuable not just for the military participants, Brig. Gen. Graham noted, but also for federal, state and local officials who might never before have worked with the military.

“Moving units is not as easy as it might seem in a game or simulation,” he said. “Exercising together gives our interagency partners a better idea of the time, distances and amount of support it takes to bring in military forces.”





▲ The type of widespread flooding that engulfed New Orleans in the wake of Hurricane Katrina was among the catastrophic events exercise participants had to plan for, and react to, during the simulation.

In each of FEMA's 10 regions, defense coordinating officers keep their fingers on the pulses of their federal and local counterparts.

"Army North works daily with federal and local governments to prepare for defense support to civil authorities," said Col. Frank Kosich, USARNORTH's defense coordinating officer for FEMA's Region I. "The training offers us the chance to exercise our plans with federal, state and local agencies."

The exercise tested and solidified the working relationships among FEMA, all branches of the DOD, the Coast Guard, and many other emergency-response organizations.

JTF-Falcon commander Maj. Gen. Thomas Matthews said the hurricane scenario brought together the diverse cultures and assets of local, state and federal agencies.

"Throughout the exercise we demonstrated the power of combining 'Army Strong' with joint-service capabilities in a world-class civil-response team," he said.

Officials spent a year planning the exercise, which was intended to

test participating agencies' abilities to respond both to the hurricane scenario and to "terrorist attacks" in the Midwest and Alaska.

During the exercise, Col. Kosich teamed with Mr. James Russo, FEMA's federal coordinating officer at the federal joint field office in Cranston.

"We purposely built a sense of urgency into the exercise to bring out the best in the participants," said Mr. Russo. "With training, we will get better and better."

Lt. Col. Paul Condon, chief of USARNORTH's exercise division, said the exercise allowed all the players to build stronger relationships. The goal was to stress all participants in order to maximize the training benefit, he added.

Participants in Rhode Island repeatedly commented on the value of the training and coordination that came out of their joint efforts, but they also looked forward to evaluations that would follow.

"We want to learn how to do a better job of anticipating needs and provide more timely responses," said Lt. Col. Joe Stawick, operations officer at USARNORTH's Operational Command Post 2.

"The degree of cooperation

between state and federal agencies couldn't have been better," said Col. Kosich, in an early analysis of the New England exercise. "Everyone was focused on helping citizens in need. We learned that we need to adapt to circumstances quickly, so that we get the right resources to the right place at the right time.

"It's also critical to manage the information we have and get the right information to decision makers, so they can make informed decisions in a timely manner," he said.

Overall, Maj. Gen. Matthews said, the strength of the exercise was the unity of effort with the common purpose of helping Americans in a crisis.

"The confidence, improvements and relationships resulting from this exercise have enhanced our collective ability to fulfill our obligations to the citizens of the United States," he said. "While we have improved processes, technologies and interoperability, the most important lesson learned was that, in a crisis, people are our most important asset." 🇺🇸



Launching t

Story by Mr. Steve Harding

While the Army has long operated watercraft ranging from small landing craft to large logistics-support vessels, a new joint acquisition program looks set to give the service the largest, fastest and most capable ship it has ever known.

Known as the Joint High Speed Vessel, the craft will be acquired by the Navy for itself, the Army and the Marine Corps. While a final design has not yet been se-

lected, representatives from the three services have established a range of requirements that prospective builders must meet, said Capt. Patricia M. Sudol, the Navy's program manager for support ships, boats and craft, and the officer in charge of the Navy-led joint acquisition program.

The JHSV's specifications and

capabilities are based on lessons the services learned from operating four leased, commercial high-speed vessels over the past five years. While the Army operated one ship,



he JHSV



Joint Venture, in conjunction with the Navy, the theater support vessel *Spearhead* was under sole Army control until its recent return to commercial service. Both ships saw

extensive Army use in operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom, as well as supporting other Army operations in the Pacific, Atlantic

and Mediterranean. Two leased vessels remain in service, *Swift* with the Navy and *Westpac Express* with the Marine Corps.

While all of the four leased vessels have been catamarans, Capt. Sudol said that any hull form will be considered for the JHSV.

“When the Navy procures ships, it uses performance-based specifications in a full and open competition, so we’re not dictating the hull shape or even the material from which the hull is constructed,” she

said. That means that the companies submitting designs for the JHSV could offer single or multiple-hulled designs made of steel, aluminum or even composite materials.

A Logistics Truck

While each of the services will use its JHSVs in ways best suited to its own requirements, the basic design will be for what Capt. Sudol called a “logistics truck.”

“The combatant commanders of each service need a very flexible lift asset that can quickly move personnel, equipment and rolling stock from one area to another,” she said. “Will it have other abilities? Of course. But the high-speed transportation requirement is the heart of this program.”

The final design of the JHSV will incorporate many lessons learned from the Army’s operation of the leased vessel TSV-1X *Spearhead*, seen here during a 2003 voyage in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The ship has since been returned to her owners.

MC1 Brien Aho, USN





▲ The JHSV is intended to ultimately replace the Army's eight very capable, yet slow, logistics support vessels.

Maj. Kyle Marolf, the Army's JHSV representative within Capt. Sudol's office, said the goal is to have a vessel that can quickly transport several hundred troops and all their equipment and vehicles across the open sea. Given that harbors are often damaged or unusable in wartime, the JHSV must be able to perform its mission without relying on the infrastructure — tugboats, piers and cargo cranes — found in commercial ports in peacetime, he said.

In keeping with that goal, the design specifications so far established for the JHSV describe an ocean-going vessel 450 feet in length or less, capable of carrying 600

short tons of cargo up to 1,200 nautical miles at a speed of 35 knots. The ship must have at least 20,000 square feet of internal cargo space, must be capable of "roll on/roll-off" loading of wheeled and tracked vehicles up to the size and weight of an M1A2 Abrams tank, must be equipped with a cargo-offload ramp, and must be capable of operating in "austere" ports. It must also have seats for at least 312 passengers, and must be able to provide long-term berthing and galley facilities for at least 104 of those passengers in addition to the vessel's own 41 crewmembers.

Because the JHSV is envisioned as a modification of existing commercial high-speed ship designs, and because it will not have to meet the rigid construction and self-defense standards required for warships, the

cost goal for each vessel will be comparatively low — \$150 million for the lead ship and \$130 million for each of the remaining seven examples, Capt. Sudol said. Current plans call for the Army to receive five vessels, with the Navy operating the other three for both itself and the Marine Corps.

Compromise and Cooperation

Given that each service will use the JHSV in slightly different ways, each has had to compromise somewhat in terms of the vessel's design and capabilities.

"I'm very impressed with the cooperation among the services," Capt. Sudol said. "Everyone realizes this is a joint procurement, and there's been a lot of compromise to ensure that each service's particular needs are met."

She and her staff are currently



“I’m very impressed with the cooperation among the services. Everyone realizes this is a joint procurement, and there’s been a lot of compromise to ensure that each service’s particular needs are met.”

waiting for the Department of Defense to approve their acquisition strategy for the JHSV, she said, and very shortly after that approval is granted her office will release what is known as a “request for proposals.” The RFP will outline all of the JHSV’s mandatory specifications and capabilities, and each design submission will be measured against those criteria.

A single firm will ultimately be selected to produce all eight JHSVs, and current plans call for the production contract to be awarded next year. 🚧

➤ Whatever the JHSV’s final design may be, the vessel will have to be able to embark both troops and outsize cargo.

▼ The leased *Westpac Express* has seen extensive service for the Marine Corps. As with *Spearhead*, the JHSV’s planners have incorporated many lessons learned from this vessel into the JHSV’s performance requirements.



Goodbye to

Story by Staff Sgt. Dallas Courrege

MORE than 20 years ago, drug runners in and around the Bahamas got a rude awakening when the “Screaming Eagles” of the 101st Airborne Division took to the Caribbean skies to break up their party.

Now, the Army’s aviation community is preparing to end its involvement in the mission the same way it began — with the Eagles soaring one last time through paradise.

The mission? Operation Bahamas, Turks and Caicos.

“OPBAT was started back in 1982 to combat the drugs flowing into the United States through the Carib-

bean,” said Kevin Stanfill, the Drug Enforcement Administration’s group supervisor for OPBAT.

The DEA coordinated the operation with the Department of Defense and law-enforcement officials from the Bahamas and the Turks and Caicos Islands to prevent drugs being smuggled through the 100,000 square miles of water surrounding 700 islands that encompass the OPBAT area of operations.

According to the Department of State’s budget justification

for fiscal year 2007, OPBAT is the largest and oldest cooperative effort by any government involved in drug enforcement. Since 2001, joint Bahamas-U.S. investigations have resulted in the takedown of three major Bahamian drug rings and hundreds of

Staff Sgt. Dallas Courrege works in the 101st Airborne Division Public Affairs Office.

Courtesy photo



OPBAT is intended to detect and apprehend drug smugglers such as these, caught by the sensors of a high-flying OPBAT support aircraft as they offload drugs from a mother-ship onto a smaller delivery vessel.

OPBAT



arrests in the United States and the Bahamas.

A Mission Based on a Legend

The operation began after drug smugglers George Jung and Carlos Lehder, most widely known from the movie “Blow,” had created a massive drug-smuggling business in the area.

Starting with the purchase of an island in the Bahamas, the smugglers created a base for running cocaine between Columbia and the United States, and the cost of cocaine soon dropped considerably due to its availability.

“Around 1978, a kilo of cocaine sold for around \$800,000,” Mr. Stanfill said. “Cocaine

had become so popular and so easy to get in the early 1980s that by the time OPBAT started, a kilo of cocaine was selling for around \$30,000.”

The Jung-Lehder ring was eventually brought down by DEA agents and both are still serving sentences in the United States. But the empire they built continued after them, hence the need for OPBAT.

Army Assets Leaving OPBAT

The Army’s involvement in OPBAT began in 1986 with an aviation unit from the 101st Abn. Div., four years after the program’s inception, said Mr. Stanfill. The 101st will also be the last Army unit to support OPBAT. Former Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld recently ordered the Army to pull out of the mission by October of this year, to better support ongoing operations in the Middle East.

“The Army has been the backbone of this mission and the service’s

participation will truly be missed,” Mr. Stanfill said. “The OPBAT mission will go on, but it will be without the Army.”

The Soldiers of Company B, 4th Battalion, 101st Aviation Regiment, 159th Combat Avn. Brigade, are currently serving on Great Exuma Island at a base known as the “Hawk’s Nest.” There are 24 Soldiers — aviators and crew chiefs — working with DEA and Bahamian Drug Enforcement Unit officials, flying missions on three UH-60 Black Hawks.

Two other companies from the same battalion will rotate in and out of Great Exuma on a three-month basis until the Army officially pulls out of OPBAT in October.

The Army provides flight support to the U.S. and Bahamian drug-enforcement agents. The DEA and DOD are still working on how they

Returning to base after a night counterdrug mission, a UH-60 Black Hawk of Company B, 4th Battalion, 101st Aviation Regiment, flies over the harbor on the Bahamas’ Great Exuma island.

Staff. Sgt. Dallas Courrege



▲ Sgt. Lorenzo Franklin conducts a “hot refuel” of a Black Hawk at the “Hawk’s Nest” base on Great Exuma. Once refueled, the UH-60 will lift off on another mission.

will replace the Army assets.

On Patrol

Most of the missions conducted by the Army are patrols, which scout for suspicious-looking boats, freighters, aircraft and ground sites. Typically, a DEA and DEU agent will be on each flight.

“We come across boats and planes weekly, but this is an intelligence-driven mission. We rely heavily on information that we’re getting from other agencies,” said Doug Behrens, a special agent with the DEA. “The critical part of this mission is our presence in the waters. All these crooks know we’re here. Just the mere fact that we are flying and doing patrols keeps them on alert. It makes them wonder, makes them worry and makes them sweat.”

According to Mr. Behrens, who has been working on the OPBAT mission for nearly two years, many big drug cartels have relocated their businesses from the Caribbean as a means of avoiding the DEA.

“You’ve got to think of drug trafficking as a business,” Mr. Behrens said. “Where there is a need, people respond. They are thinking of it as profits, what’s most cost effective, how easy it is to get stuff.

➤ From a low-flying OPBAT Black Hawk, DEA special agent Doug Behrens and an officer from the Bahamian Drug Enforcement Unit scan for drug activity on one of the Bahamas’ hundreds of small islands.

A typical drug-trafficking organization considers drug seizures a part of the cost of doing business. That’s factored into the cost of the dope as it’s coming up.”

Mission Success

Although not every patrol results in a drug seizure, the Army aviators have seen a few mission successes during their rotation. Their first flight was in pursuit of a small fixed-wing aircraft that crash-landed while trying to evade an OPBAT Black Hawk. The crewmembers survived the crash and were apprehended. The marijuana onboard burned along with the wreckage.

“We had high hopes that this would become a regular thing, but it hasn’t,” said Capt. Walt Green, Co. B’s commander. “Our mission successes have been few. I was expect-

ing there to be more opportunities for contraband seizures and arrests. In that regard, it has been a little frustrating.”

Capt. Green leads the 23 Soldiers stationed at the Hawk’s Nest. He schedules his pilots and crew chiefs for the patrol missions and also prepares quick-reaction flights for missions flown to specific targets in response to intelligence reports.

Most recently, his Soldiers helped clear a marijuana field that was discovered on Andros Island, near Nassau, by U.S. Coast Guard pilots.

“It’s called a weed-eater mission. You fly around over land, looking for pot fields,” Capt. Green said. “Out on Andros Island, there was the largest cultivated pot field in the history of this mission. It was a very big seizure.”

As the Soldiers are nearing the

Staff Sgt. Dallas Courrage



end of their deployment and preparing to train their replacements, they are hoping to get at least one great bust before leaving.

A Deployment is a Deployment

The company was only back five months from a yearlong rotation in Iraq before deploying in support of OPBAT in February.

"This is a beautiful place and a great experience, but it's a deployment and these guys work very hard," Capt. Green said. "The crew chief and the maintainer are on the aircraft at 7 a.m. They work Saturdays and Sundays. These guys all have a requirement to have one aircraft up and running 24 hours a day, seven days a week. These guys are always on duty."

➤ A Bahamian DEU officer and a DEA special agent escort a suspect apprehended after the small aircraft he was in crashed while attempting to evade OPBAT surveillance.

▼ OPBAT aircrews spend much of their time searching for, and then helping coordinate the apprehension of, "go-fast" boats like this one. The boats are often painted blue to make them harder to spot from the air.

Capt. Green admits that his Soldiers do have ample opportunity to enjoy recreational activities on the island when they're not on duty. But their primary objective is to support the DEA and DEU.

"It's fun being here. It's kind of like being in a firehouse. We eat dinner together, we hang out together. You learn a lot about everybody. It's a different environment. It's a lot of

fun, but we are substituting each other for family right now," Capt. Green said. "At the end of the day, you're still deployed. You're talking to your wife or your spouse or your family members via e-mail or on the phone."

At the time this article was written, Capt. Green and his Soldiers were looking forward to returning to the States and to their families. They were to redeploy in May. 🚩



Courtesy photo

Courtesy photo



EXPANDING

Fort Bliss

Story by Ms. Judy Marsicano

THE U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Fort Worth, Texas, District, along with five other Corps districts and the U.S. Army Air Defense Artillery Center and Fort Bliss, Texas, have undertaken one of the Corps' largest military construction programs — the \$2.6 billion Fort Bliss Expansion Program.

It will provide facilities for Soldiers and units relocating to Fort Bliss as part of the Army's transformation initiative.

Because Fort Bliss is on the brink of a population explosion, driven by the changing needs of the Army, the Corps is planning, developing and building what will amount to a small city for approximately 19,000 Soldiers returning to Fort Bliss from overseas installations.

Most of the growth can be attributed to the restationing of the 1st Armored Division from Germany. The division headquarters, four brigade combat teams and a combat aviation brigade from Fort Hood, Texas, will call Fort Bliss home within the next five years. The Soldiers will also bring with them some 27,000 family members.

Brig. Gen. Jeffrey J. Dorko, commander of the USACE's Southwestern Division, said the expansion includes some 300 buildings, 15 ranges, 46,000 linear feet of water lines, 22,000 linear feet of sewer lines and 1.5 million linear feet of electrical lines.

Work places, housing and community facilities will include headquarters


and administrative space, dining facilities, aircraft hangars, arms rooms, unit storage facilities and barracks. When the expansion program is complete the post will more than double in size, officials said.

The Fort Worth District has set up a program office at Fort Bliss as one of the first steps in executing this multi-billion dollar program.

The Fort Bliss Program Office, led by program director Troy Collins, will provide direct support to the installation for all deliverables and services the Corps is providing Fort Bliss.

The Corps has already awarded some \$252 million in contracts to four prime contractors. Competition among subcontractors and suppliers began in October 2006.

Fort Worth District will be responsible for infrastructure, barracks and training ranges, plus coordinating the activities of the other districts. The Albuquerque, N.M., District will be responsible for company operations facilities; Galveston, Texas, District for ammunition storage and parking facilities; Little Rock, Ark., District for dining facilities and aircraft hangars; Sacramento, Calif., District for brigade and battalion headquarters buildings and unit storage facilities; and Tulsa, Okla., District for maintenance facilities.

The Fort Bliss Expansion Project will pose daunting challenges for the USACE, officials said, as it ensures contractors get work done on time and within budget, providing high-quality workmanship and materials and protecting the environment at the same time. 



Ms. Judy Marsicano is the public affairs officer for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Fort Worth District.



▲ Dignitaries ceremoniously break ground for the \$2.6 billion Fort Bliss Expansion Program, which will eventually include some 300 buildings, 15 ranges, and thousands of linear feet of new water, power and sewer lines.

▲ When the expansion program is completed it will have nearly doubled the amount of space devoted to barracks, dining facilities, aircraft hangars and storage facilities.

Old Guard

in Djibouti

Story and Photos by Spc. Nancy Van Der Weide

SOLDIERS from the Fort Myer, Va.-based 3rd U.S. Infantry, The Old Guard, had been in Africa for about a month. But they'd already been credited with contributing significantly to the Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa's mission to curb the spread of terrorism in underdeveloped countries, CJTF-HOA officials said.

The 3rd Inf.'s Company D, 1st Battalion, was sent to the Horn of Africa to provide force protection for troops in

Spc. Nancy Van Der Weide works in The Old Guard Public Affairs Office.



the region as they conduct civil-affairs missions.

Upon arriving at Camp Lemonnier, CJTF-HOA headquarters in Djibouti, the Old Guard Soldiers moved out in teams to support humanitarian missions in Djibouti, Uganda, Ethiopia and Kenya.

Civil-affairs teams from the Army and other services have been working to build schools, medical clinics and other facilities for those African nations. The Soldiers are also participating in military-to-military training in Djibouti, Uganda and Kenya, U.S. Army officials said.

The deployment has exposed the Soldiers to new experiences that many of them said will remain with them for the rest of their lives.

"The people in Djibouti are very modest, polite people," said Pfc. Mario Arbizo, a member of Co. D's 1st platoon. "It's a big deal for them to deal with Americans. They all want to come up and shake our hands."

The local children have made a particularly good impression on the Soldiers, Pfc. Arbizo said. The children like to hang around the Soldiers, watch them, ask them to play ball, or give them gifts, often in hopes of receiving something in return.

"The kids are so happy, and they



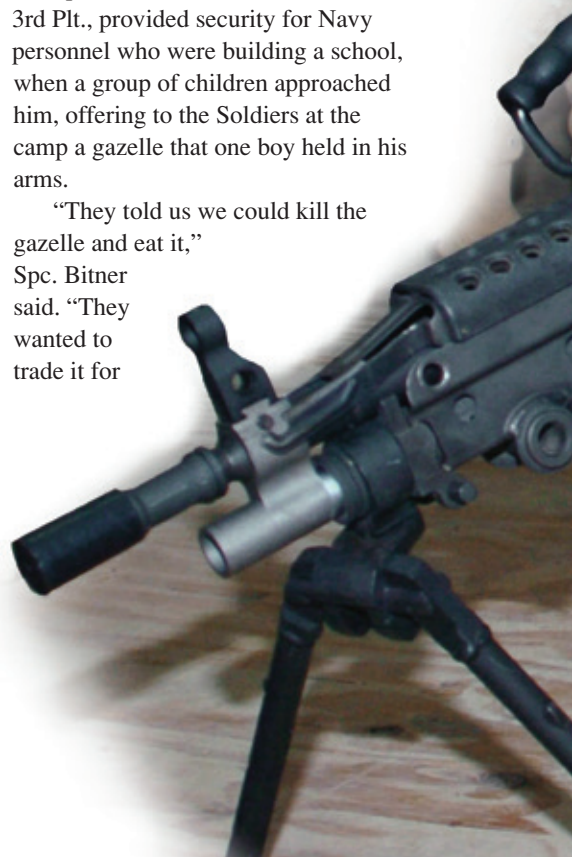
▲ Spc. Sam Bitner takes time for a photograph with children of the village where his team is providing force protection.

have such great attitudes," said Pfc. Arbizo. "They try to show us things they've seen on American TV. They sing American songs and use American phrases. Often, the phrases are out of context."

Spc. Sam Bitner, a member of 3rd Plt., provided security for Navy personnel who were building a school, when a group of children approached him, offering to the Soldiers at the camp a gazelle that one boy held in his arms.

"They told us we could kill the gazelle and eat it,"

Spc. Bitner said. "They wanted to trade it for



◀ Spc. Bitner provides security for Navy Seabees building a school.



Pfc. Chris Skowron demonstrates a functions check on an M-240B during a machine-gun class.

some of the stuff we have. We couldn't take it, though."

Spc. Bitner has been working with a team of 11 Old Guard Soldiers in a small Djiboutian village.

When the kids get too curious, or when they get in the way of the Soldiers' mission, the town elders are quick to tell them not to interfere, said Pvt. Donovan Metzger, another 3rd Plt. Soldier.

The elders take time to talk to servicemembers regularly, said Spc. Bitner. Recently, they came to the Soldiers' camp to invite them to participate in a soccer game. The Soldiers and some Sailors, who'd also been invited, were outmatched; the village won the game 7-0.

One night a hard rain caused flooding throughout a region where four Old Guard Soldiers were supporting a civil-affairs mission.

While out on a reconnaissance patrol, Sgt. Rovell Thomas happened upon a group of Djiboutians standing along a flooded waterway. They told Sgt. Thomas and his team that a swift current had swept two boys downstream, and they couldn't rescue them.

With the help of an Airman and a Soldier from another unit, Sgt. Thomas went into the water, found one of the boys and pulled him to safety. He was unable, however, to find the other boy, who'd been carried far down the waterway.

Pfc. Arbizo said one of the best, most surprising things he experienced on the deployment was the ease at which members of the joint services communicated.

"It's been a good experience working with members of other services, and with foreign armies," he said.

Ten Old Guard Soldiers had the opportunity to experience a different way of life when they took a desert-survival course led by members of the French army and marines.

Along with members of the U.S.

Navy and Marine Corps, the Soldiers underwent five and a half days of classroom instruction, during which they were introduced to the basics of desert survival, including how to draw and cool water, and how to build shelter in a desert environment. They also learned desert land navigation, and how to identify edible food, said Spc. Patrick Byrne, of the 3rd Plt.



▲ Pfc. Sean Scott of 1st Platoon checks an IV on Pvt. Paul Kenyon of 3rd Platoon during an IED drill at Camp Lemonnier.

Upon completing classroom instruction, their new skills were tested during a grueling four-day march that required them to travel 20-25 kilometers each night over rocky desert terrain, said Spc. Byrne.

"The food is good, people are nice and there's plenty to keep us occupied. I can't ask for much more."

Because of the intense heat during the day, the group walked through the night, sleeping and eating during the day.

The Soldiers were allowed to eat only traditional Djiboutian food, which

they were required to gather themselves, Pfc. Byrne said. It included goat meat, rice and bread made of fried flour mixed with water.

Pfc. Byrne said the desert-survival course was his favorite experience of the deployment to that point. "It's something I'd never come close to doing in my life — something completely new," he said.

Going through the desert-survival course gave Camp Lemonnier-based Soldiers a new appreciation for their accommodations at the camp, said Pfc. Matt Horton, of 3rd Plt.

When the Soldiers have completed their missions, they return to the camp to recuperate and continue training.

"The food is good, people are nice and there's plenty to keep us occupied. I can't ask for much more," said Spc. Tyler Cissell, a 1st Plt. Soldier.

On base, the Soldiers spend time working on physical fitness, common infantry tasks and personal-improvement goals.

Physical-fitness training remains a priority for all Soldiers, said 1st Sgt. Anthony Chavez. "When Soldiers are not on a mission, they're doing PT at least twice a day," he said.

Being at Camp Lemonnier gives Soldiers a great opportunity for self-improvement, because there are few distractions, said Sgt. Michael Nawrocki, a liaison officer with Headquarters Plt.

"I don't know anyone here who doesn't have his own personal goal while he's here," he said.

There is one goal that is set above all others, one that is shared by every Soldier in the company — to prevent the spread of terrorism in the Horn of Africa, said 1st Sgt. Chavez.

"When they're out on a mission, they're focused and are doing their part by interacting with the local people and fostering good relations between the United States and Djibouti as well as other African nations," he said. 🇺🇸

Eliminating the Bite

Story by Ms. Donna Hyatt

FIRST referred to as “empis” by Aristotle in his 300 B.C. tome “Historia Animalium,” the mosquito has been bugging mankind for a long, long time.

The U.S. Geological Survey’s National Wildlife Health Center has classified about 200 species of mosquitoes in the United States, and 48 of them are biters.

Although most mosquitoes are just annoying, some can transmit such serious diseases as malaria, encephalitis and yellow fever to humans, animals and birds.

West Nile virus — commonly found in Africa, the Middle East, western Asia and the Mediterranean — is another potentially serious mosquito-borne illness.

It first emerged in the New York City area in 1999 and has quickly spread westward across North America. As of last year, West Nile virus has been detected in all 48 U.S. continental States.

Even in areas where West Nile virus has been documented, officials at the Centers for Disease Control said the risk of contracting the virus is statistically low.

Sgt. Gina Egan, noncommissioned officer in charge of environmental health at Martin Army Community Hospital at Fort Benning, Ga., confirmed there have been no cases of West Nile virus in humans at that installation.

“So far this season we have not found one mosquito, bird or animal with the West Nile virus,” she said.

Symptoms of West Nile infection usually occur after a three-to-15-day incubation period. People infected with West Nile experience flu-like symptoms, which can include fever, headache and body aches.

In a very few number of cases, particularly among the elderly or those with compromised immune systems, the disease is more serious and causes encephalitis, an inflammation of the brain

affecting the central nervous system.

Most people who get the illness recover from it. In severe cases, hospitalization is required. CDC officials said less than 1 percent of those bitten by an infected mosquito develop severe symptoms.

Gregg Mohler, construction inspector for the engineering division of Fort Benning’s Directorate of Public Works, said the safest and most cost-effective way to control mosquitoes is to eliminate their breeding sites.

“People are their own worst enemies when it comes to keeping mosquitoes under control,” he said. “Any unchlorinated standing water is a potential breeding site. The chlorine in a glass of tap water dissipates within 24 hours.”

Kiddie wading pools become mosquito-breeding sites within 24 to 48 hours, if they’re not emptied. Simply emptying any container that holds standing water will greatly reduce the chances of getting bitten.

“Don’t water around the house in the evening,” Mr. Mohler said. “It creates a water source for roaches, and the mosquitoes will breed in the nooks and crannies.”

U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine officials said only female mosquitoes are capable of biting, and they usually prefer to bite horses, cattle, smaller mammals and birds.


The females are attracted to exhaled carbon dioxide, and they’re influenced by temperature, moisture, smell, color and movement, said Erin Menefee, environmental specialist for the DPW Environmental Division.

Army Environmental Health Services personnel trap and count mosquitoes to identify potential carriers of the virus, she said. They collect the mosquitoes every week and send them to the USACHPPM Entomological Sciences Division at Fort Meade, Md., for analysis.

“We don’t treat areas of Fort Benning with insecticide fog because of the number of people with allergies who would be exposed to the fog,” Mr. Mohler said. “Only once in 15 years did we do it at Fort Benning, because fogging only kills the adult mosquitoes when they’re flying.”

Instead, people should wear long pants and long-sleeved shirts, or use a mosquito repellent containing DEET or permethrin, he said.

In addition to collecting information about mosquito populations and habitats through weekly trap testing, the surveillance of dead birds has been helpful in tracking the spread of the virus across the country, Mr. Mohler added.

“Any type of predatory bird, such as an owl or hawk, that just drops down dead is suspect,” he said. 



Ms. Donna Hyatt works for the Fort Benning “Bayonet.”

OnPoint

The Army in Action



Germany

Paratroopers from the 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team get pre-deployment training at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center in Hohenfels.

— Photo by Gary L. Kieffer





▲ Iraq

Pvt. Brice Hinton looks through cracks in his Humvee's windows caused by enemy fire when his convoy was caught in a complex ambush.

— Photo by Staff Sgt. Vanessa Valentine, USAF



▲ Iraq

A Soldier carries a wounded Iraqi child into the Charlie Medical Center on Camp Ramadi for medical evaluation.

— Photo by Lance Cpl. James F. Cline III, USMC

◀ Alaska

Members of a National Guard civil-support team board the USNS *Henry J. Kaiser* in biohazard suits to investigate a simulated report of suspicious chemicals aboard.

— Photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Daniel N. Woods, USN

Ensuring Regional Security

Story and Photo by Staff Sgt. Reeba Critser

THE Third Army/U.S. Army Central Land Forces Symposium brings together senior military leaders in the ARCENT area of responsibility to enhance security in the region.

This year's symposium took place in Pakistan and included representatives from 22 nations, including the United States, Australia, Afghanistan, Bahrain, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iraq, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Seychelles, Tajikistan, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

ARCENT commander Lt. Gen. R. Steven Whitcomb said the conference gave participants an opportunity to discuss ways to effectively combat terrorism, a topic of common interest among attendees.

The symposium was not about discussing military tactics, he said, adding that the struggle against terrorism requires the wise application of all the elements of national power, including intelligence, law-enforcement, finance and economic tools.

"This is about the future," he said. "Military leaders today have a responsibility for tomorrow."

"In my opinion, your appearance here indicates a dedicated, long-term commitment to reach a resolution in the war on terror," Gen. Ahsan Saleem Hyat, vice chief of staff of the Pakistan army, said in remarks to the delegates.

In his closing remarks, Pakistan's President Pervez Musharraf said: "I believe in seeing the present, even if I don't like what I see. I don't believe in

being anchored by history. We need to not cry over spilt milk. Instead, we need to look ahead to the future, to bring more harmony to the world."

President Musharraf also assured the delegates that Pakistan is working hard to stop terrorists from crossing the Afghanistan border into Pakistan.

While he acknowledged that members of the Taliban are holed up in the mountains of Pakistan, "We will fight them," he said. "But please don't think everything is happening only here, and across the border everything is fine."

"If this were the case, my conclusion as a military man would be that all military assets should move to the borders and we should seal the borders," he added.


Military force, however, isn't enough to stop terrorism, he said. "The West, led by the United States, must resolve political disputes and help promote social and economic development in Afghanistan and Iraq. Justice must be done


and be seen by the Muslim world."

Pakistan Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz said in an earlier speech, "Hundreds of terrorists, and some terrorist leaders, have been captured in Pakistan, and terrorists have tried to kill me and President Musharraf on several occasions."

"But these are the actions of a few misguided individuals," he said. "The real solution for winning the war on terrorism is winning the hearts and minds of the people you're protecting."

Lt. Gen. Whitcomb said he hopes the delegates left with "strengthened camaraderie, minds exercised and visions of the future reinforced."

No doubt the symposium helped participants establish the conditions and relationships necessary for future cooperative efforts "that will give our enemies pause to think before they threaten," he said. 

 Pakistani Maj. Gen. Wahid Arshad gives his opening statement as Maj. Gen. Dennis Hardy looks on.



Staff Sgt. Reeba Critser works in the Third Army/U.S. Army Central Public Affairs Office.

Battling

PTSD

Story and Photos by Mr. Mike A. Glasch

AS Spc. Eric Goins recalls the night he hit rock bottom, his voice cracks and he struggles to suppress the tears.

“One night last September a buddy and I were at the house drinking. He left, and I went to the bathroom and started crying uncontrollably. I couldn’t stop. I felt all the

pain from all the death,” said the mechanic with Headquarters and HQs. Company, 187th Ordnance Battalion.

His wife of nine years, Heather, tried to calm him, but to no avail. Finally, she called the paramedics.

“I was brokenhearted. He had never, ever been like this,” she said. “He was crying and screaming at me to not let them take him.”

“The paramedics showed up with the MPs,” Spc. Goins recalled. “They


took me downstairs and put me on a stretcher. I was fine until they got me into the back of the ambulance and tried to strap me in. I flipped out. I started fighting, trying to throw them out the back.

“I don’t know what it was,” he said. “Mentally, I could comprehend what was going on, but I couldn’t

Mr. Mike A. Glasch writes for the Fort Jackson “Leader.”

▼ Spc. Eric Goins and his wife, Heather, talk about Goins’ battle with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.





stop myself. I thought they were trying to kill me. I kept reciting the Soldier's Creed, all the way to the hospital. Once I got to the hospital I was still combatant. I had both of my hands handcuffed to a gurney, my ankles tied down, and straps across my chest, but I was still grabbing people if they got too close."

Two years after returning from his second deployment to Operation Iraqi Freedom, Spc. Goins was ready to admit he had Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and needed help.

PTSD on the Rise

Cases like Spc. Goins' are growing in number. A 2004 study at Walter Reed Army Medical Center found 18 percent of Soldiers returning from Iraq and 11 percent of Soldiers returning from Afghanistan were at risk for PTSD. It is estimated that number will grow as the war on terror continues.

Dennis Reeves, a psychologist who was in Iraq as part of a combat-stress team, predicts the number will reach Vietnam War-era proportions, where one in every three Soldiers was diagnosed with PTSD.

Lt. Col. Kevin Stevenson, chief of the Department of Social Work at Moncrief Army Community Hospital at Fort Jackson, S.C., isn't surprised by that estimate.

"PTSD can surface while the Soldier is still in that stressful environment, or it can manifest itself years later," he said.

Spc. Goins' symptoms started during his second deployment. He first deployed to OIF in April 2003 as a mechanic assigned to a mortuary-affairs company. His unit was stationed at Camp Wolverine, Kuwait, where he fixed vehicles. He said during that first deployment he loved his work.

"I felt important," he said. "It gave me a whole new outlook on the



military; I loved it even more.”

Spc. Goins returned to Fort Lee, Va., in October 2003. Six months later he discovered he was being sent back to Camp Wolverine. He looked forward to it.

“The first two months of that second deployment all I did was work on cars,” he said. “But then my first sergeant asked me to help with handling all the bodies that were coming in.”

All the remains of Soldiers killed in Iraq were collected at Camp Wolverine before being sent to the United

States. Spc. Goins said he was asked to help get the bodies ready for shipment in June 2004, when violence in Fallujah was at its worst.

“We were overwhelmed. We were working two to three days straight with just catnaps,” he said.

It was during this time that Spc. Goins’ wife started to notice a change in him.

“He would call home and I could hear the stress in his voice,” she said. “He went from being upbeat to saying ‘I can’t do this anymore.’”

He said the breaking point came in September 2004, a month before he returned to Fort Lee.

“The husband of a woman I was working with at Camp Wolverine was killed in Iraq. At the ramp ceremony before we shipped his remains I glanced up and saw her break down,” he said. “It made me realize that could have been me in that casket.”

PTS and PTSD

While still in Kuwait, Spc. Goins started having trouble sleeping, and when he did sleep he was having nightmares. He said he wasn’t able to get help for the mental and emotional burdens he was enduring. When he returned to Fort Lee, he felt isolated because the battalion leadership had changed while he was deployed.

“I was real edgy with a lot of people. Little things would set me off,” he said. “I would fly off the handle, screaming and yelling.”

Lt. Col. Stevenson said the behaviors Spc. Goins exhibited are typical of a majority of people who experience a traumatic event.

“Having nightmares or experiencing difficulty with sleeping or eating, or being anxious and agitated are normal for people who are seeing death and handling bodies,” he said. “What we see and deal with most is

the aggression and the anger.”

Lt. Col. Stevenson stressed the importance of remembering there is a difference between post-traumatic stress and PTSD.

“PTS is a normal physiological response to being in a traumatic event — war, natural disasters, car accidents or working in an emergency room,” he said. “The symptoms can manifest physically, emotionally and cognitively. In most cases, exhibiting signs of PTS is not a cause for concern. After six to eight weeks the symptoms tend to disappear. If they persist for a prolonged period, that’s when we have concerns.”

Serious Consequences

If left untreated, PTSD can lead to serious consequences. In the summer of 2002, for example, five Soldiers at Fort Bragg, N.C., who had recently returned from Afghanistan, murdered their wives. Two of those Soldiers then took their own lives.

“In severe cases Soldiers will talk about committing suicide or homicide. They’ll either talk about it directly or they’ll talk around it; saying things like maybe things would be better if they weren’t around,” Lt. Col. Stevenson said. “Don’t take those comments lightly. You need to act immediately; do not leave the Soldier alone.”

Spc. Goins said he never contemplated harming anyone, but he did exhibit quite a few other signs of PTSD.

“As far as our family relationship went, we didn’t have one because I was either drunk or didn’t want to talk,” he said. “I just wanted to be alone and deal with whatever I was going through alone. I was pretty much scared to get back into life.”

His wife agreed that their family life suffered.

“PTS is a normal physiological response to being in a traumatic event — war, natural disasters, car accidents or working in an emergency room. The symptoms can manifest physically, emotionally and cognitively.”

“There was no intimacy, we slept back to back, we never gave hugs or kissed,” Mrs. Goins said. “He didn’t want to be bothered with anybody, and I didn’t want to bother him.”

Six months after returning from his second deployment, Spc. Goins received orders for Fort Jackson, S.C. Though he had not received any help to treat his PTSD, he thought the move was just what he and his family needed. But the problems followed him there.

“I was running from my fears. I was running from everything — my children, my wife, my job, everything. I was scared. I didn’t know what was going on,” Spc. Goins said. “Once I got to Fort Jackson I realized it didn’t fix itself.”

Necessary Treatment

It was only when he ended up strapped to a bed at Moncrief Army Community Hospital that Spc. Goins

finally admitted he needed help.

“I didn’t think I had PTSD. I had the attitude that only crazy people experienced it,” he said.

Spc. Goins’ attitude about PTSD isn’t unique. The WRAMC study found that 60 percent of Soldiers returning from OIF and Operation Enduring Freedom were unlikely to seek help for PTSD out of fear their commanders and fellow Soldiers would treat them differently.

That negative stigma is something Lt. Col. Stevenson said the Army has been trying to overcome.

“The Army put a lot of money into being sure Soldiers are able to have an opportunity to get counseling,” Lt. Col. Stevenson said. “If they’re not comfortable using the facilities here, they can call Military OneSource and receive six free counseling sessions off post without any notes being made in their medical records.”

Treatment for PTSD can include individual counseling sessions, group therapy and medication.

To help locate Soldiers who

might be suffering from PTSD but are unwilling to admit it, the Defense Department has deployed more mental-health professionals. When Soldiers return home, they are interviewed and fill out questionnaires to determine if they need PTSD treatment.

Treating PTSD isn’t a quick fix. Depending on the severity of the disorder it can take several years for a Soldier to recover. However, the couple stresses that the need for prolonged treatment shouldn’t deter anyone from seeking help.

“It’s not always going to be hard times, pain and suffering,” Spc. Goins said. “It’s going to get better, but you have to realize there is a problem before you can fix it.”

His wife agreed.

“You have to be patient with those suffering from PTSD,” Mrs. Goins said. “You can’t give up on them. They need the love from their families to get through. Don’t give up and don’t quit.”

Off-post help for PTSD is available through Military OneSource at (800) 342-9647. 

▼ Spc. Goins and his wife play ball with their sons, Koby, 5 (left), and Ethan, 9, at Fort Jackson’s Semmes Lake.





Home Financing

The continuing boom in the construction and sale of new homes has sparked an increase in home sales to Soldiers as well as civilians. That, in turn, has led to an increasing number of Soldiers' questions about home financing.

Of course, the first question Soldiers should ask themselves is whether they should even be purchasing a home, rather than renting one or residing in on-post housing. Although home buying can be a wise investment, it may not be the best choice for military members who may be relocating within a year or two.

Prospective homebuyers should also consider the broader financial issues involved in home ownership

— including the projected market value of the home, income-tax implications, utility costs, real-estate taxes, insurance premiums, homeowner association fees, maintenance expenses and resale costs. In addition, Soldiers approaching retirement should take into consideration their projected post-retirement income, the period they expect to occupy the new home, civilian employment opportunities, and the lifestyle they desire for themselves and their families.

Types of Loans

Once a Soldier has determined that owning a home is both practical and desirable, there remains the important question of how to finance the property's acquisition. Since paying cash is not usually an option for most people, loans are the most common alternative.

Mr. Steven Chucala is chief of the Legal Assistance Division for the Staff Judge Advocate at Fort Belvoir, Va.

The various types of loans available include:

⊙ Construction loans, which are used when buyers have a home built to their own specifications rather than buying one constructed by a developer. The amount of this type of loan is based upon the projected future market value of the home, not just on the estimated building cost. The lending company will review the construction plans, estimate the future market value of the home and then establish incremental loan advances as the construction proceeds, rather than making a lump-sum distribution of the entire loan to the builder. The lending company must ensure that there will be sufficient collateral to recover the loan should a default occur in construction or payments.

⊙ Fixed-rate loans/mortgages are the most common home loans. They have a fixed interest rate over a set number of years. The interest is added to the principal of the loan and is paid off first during the lifetime of the loan out of each monthly payment. Home buyers should shop around to determine the lowest available interest rates and the lowest number of points to be paid up front, and then select the number of years for the loan that meets their projected ability to make the payments.

⊙ Adjustable-rate loans/mortgages normally provide the borrower with a lower initial interest rate than will a fixed-rate loan. However, the interest rate then fluctuates up or down, based upon an index such as the interest rate for federal treasury bills or the prime interest rates plus a set percentage margin (margin is the lender's profit). The new interest rate continues until the next specified adjustment period.

Since the interest rate for the life of the loan is uncertain, the loan agreement should include an interest cap or ceiling that either limits the percentage of increase during each ad-

justment period or sets a percentage ceiling as the maximum for the entire period of the loan. Borrowers should check the history of the index used to estimate the loan's future performance, and should fully understand the risks the loan rate presents.

⊙ Convertible Adjustable-Rate loans/mortgages permit the borrower to convert the loan to a fixed-rate mortgage at specified times. The conversion normally requires the borrower to pay the lender a specific fee, and the loan then assumes the current interest rate of a fixed loan. There are no statutory time periods for this election and fees, so borrowers should understand their options under the contract.

⊙ Balloon loans/mortgages provide a loan for a few years with monthly payments that only satisfy the interest debt for the loan. At the end of the loan period, the entire original loan principal amount comes due and must be paid immediately or a new loan must be obtained. Balloon loans provide the borrower with a lower monthly payment and the ability to obtain a lower interest rate for the principal amount before completion of the loan period.

⊙ Wrap-Around mortgages are loans in which the lender assumes responsibility for a borrower's existing mortgage, while creating a new and additional loan for the borrower. The existing mortgage must be assumable to permit this transaction.

FHA- and Department of Veterans Affairs-guaranteed loans are assumable; all others require the permission of the existing lender.

⊙ Equity mortgages or loans are actually liens upon real property to secure the payment of a loan. Homeowners may borrow money and use their present homes as collateral, based upon the equity in the current home.



Other Things to Consider

FHA/HUD loan guarantees permit buyers with limited funds to put down as little as 3 percent of the purchase price. For further information visit www.fha.com and www.hud.gov/buying/index.

VA-guaranteed loans are made by lenders to eligible veterans for a portion of the purchase price of a home, which must be for the veteran's personal occupancy. VA buyer

benefits include no down payment, the right to prepay the loan without penalty, and the ability for other qualified buyers to assume the mortgage. For more information visit www.homeloans.va.gov.

Ignorance is not bliss when buying a home. Home ownership is a long-term financial obligation that requires buyers to fully understand the terms and requirements of their mortgages.

Know the Law!

MP Chall

Story and Photos by Ms. Allison Choike

The Warfighter Military Police Team Competition at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., has always been a grueling test of competitors' brawn and strength of will, but this year it was also sharply focused on combat skills.

"You can't call this competition 'Warfighter' while we are a nation at war, and have any credibility to the name if the competition focuses on common-task testing and swimming laps in the gym pool," said Sgt. Maj. Sean Rowe, NCOIC of the 2007 event. "I don't want to take away from those competitions, but we want to make this the real thing, because a lot of these young Soldiers

Ms. Allison Choike writes for the "Guidon" newspaper at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.



▲ Members of Team 15 from the 34th Military Police Detachment at Fort Knox, Ky. (from closest to farthest) Spc. John Atkins, Sgt. John Mras and Spc. Hisham Fayed engage targets at Range 18 during the weapons-proficiency exam.

enge



Pvt. Jonathon Montgomery, Sgt. Adam Norton and Pfc. Randolph Steadman of Team 24, 342nd MP Battalion, Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., paddle across Bloodland Lake during the Combat Water Challenge.



▲ Soldiers from the 787th MP Bn. cheer on the teams as they cross the finish line of the final event — the 15-kilometer road march.



have two or three rotations ‘downrange.’”

Sgt. Maj. Rowe said he and the rest of the 14th Military Police Brigade, which hosts the competition, wanted to make it one of the most challenging events yet. And that emphasis was not lost on the competitors.

“It is such a great idea to have something like this be so battle focused. Anyone can be the biggest and the strongest, but as MPs, we have to be in that frame of mind for work,” said Cpl. Anthony Pickering of the 716th MP Bn. team from Fort Campbell, Ky.

◀ Sgt. Brian Kessler of Team 9, from the 92nd MP Bn. at Fort Benning, Ga., administers simulated first aid to Pvt. James Hubbard of Company C, 787th MP Bn. during the urban-operations portion of the Tactical Orienteering Course.

▼ Competitors plot out their course on a map of Fort Leonard Wood at the start of the Tactical Orienteering Course.



► (Left to right) Pfc. James Schultz, Cpl. Casey Sadler and Spc. Jerry Powell of Team 21 from the 705th MP Bn. at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., sprint to the finish line of the 15-kilometer road march while onlookers cheer them on.



Cpl. Pickering's teammate, Pfc. Clinton Baumstark, agreed, and felt it was more than a competition but something that could be directly related to a job.

Many competitors were surprised at just how tough and realistic the events were.

Sgt. Brian Hayes of the 91st MP Bn. from Fort Drum, N.Y., just returned from Iraq with both of his teammates and saw himself practicing some old drills.

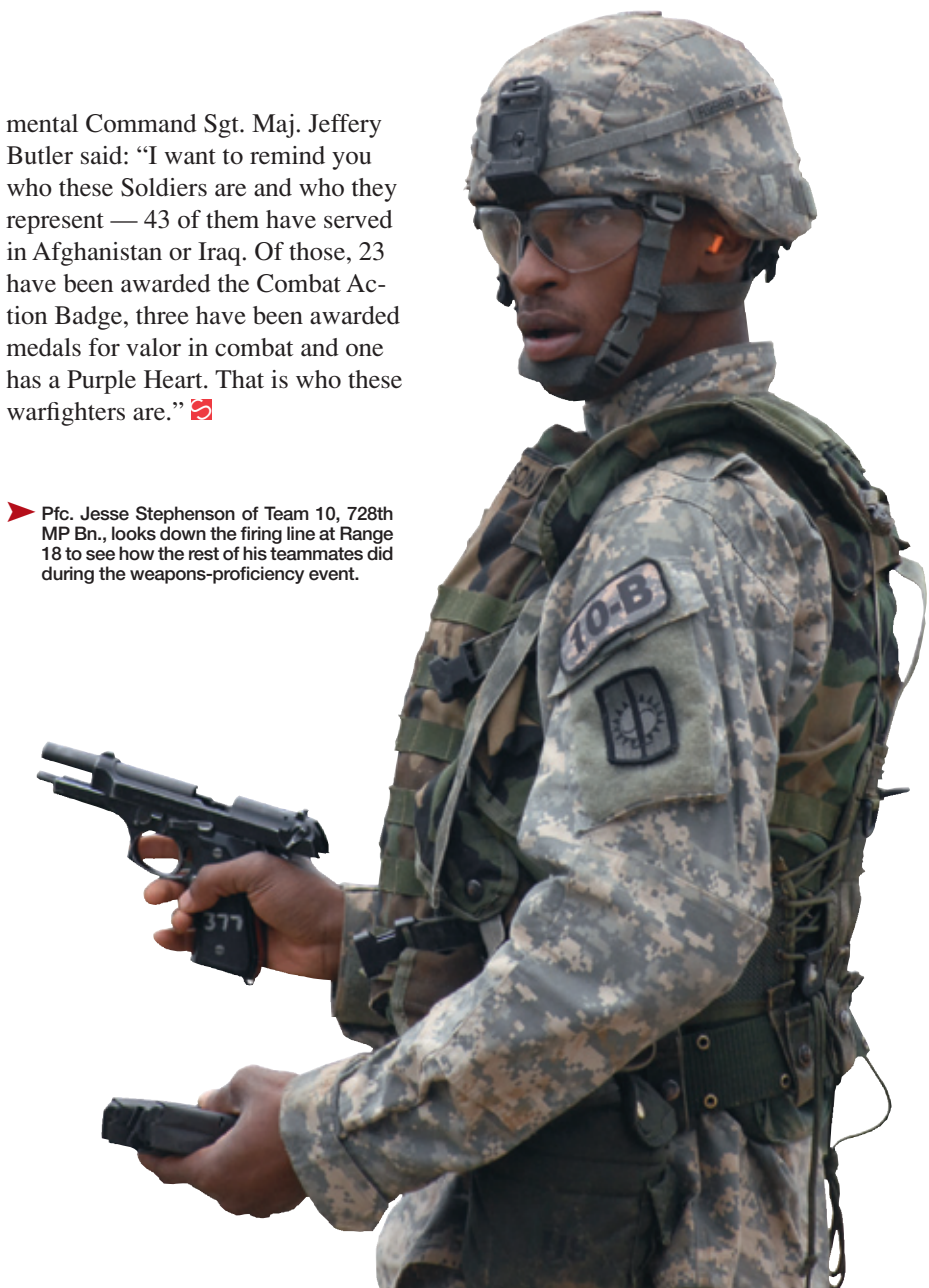
"While we were in Iraq our lives were in each other's hands. And during this competition we had to stay just as focused and on mission, and we got things done," Sgt. Hayes said.

Getting things done ultimately helped the 716th MP Bn. team take first place, with second and third place taken by the teams from the 101st Sustainment Brigade at Fort Campbell and the 92nd MP Bn. at Fort Benning, Ga., respectively.

Commenting on the spirit and tenacity of all the competitors, Regi-

mental Command Sgt. Maj. Jeffery Butler said: "I want to remind you who these Soldiers are and who they represent — 43 of them have served in Afghanistan or Iraq. Of those, 23 have been awarded the Combat Action Badge, three have been awarded medals for valor in combat and one has a Purple Heart. That is who these warfighters are." ■

► Pfc. Jesse Stephenson of Team 10, 728th MP Bn., looks down the firing line at Range 18 to see how the rest of his teammates did during the weapons-proficiency event.



"While we were in Iraq our lives were in each other's hands. And during this competition we had to stay just as focused and on mission..."

Sharp Shooters

Photographers captured key moments of the worldwide celebrations of the Army's 232nd birthday. These photos provide a glimpse into the varied observances celebrating the Army, its Soldiers and 232 years of service to the nation.



▲ The sword used by Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth O. Preston to cut the cake during the U.S. Senate's observance of the Army birthday in Washington, D.C., rests on the table as guests enjoy the cake.

— Staff Sgt. Christina M. O'Connell



▲ Maj. Gen. Steven Hashem of U.S. Special Operations Command and Keith Brown of Seminole, Fla., cut the Army birthday cake at the Tampa Bay Devil Rays-San Diego Padres game in St. Petersburg, Fla., on June 13.

— Sgt. Maj. Steve Valley





- ▲ The U.S. Army Drill Team performs at the 2007 Army Ball in Tampa, Fla., on June 9.

— SGM Steve Valley

- ▶ Soldiers dressed in past and present Army uniforms recite the Soldiers' Creed during the cake-cutting ceremony at the Pentagon.

— Staff Sgt. Christina M. O'Connell

- ◀ At Fort Riley, Kan., Soldiers in uniforms representing various periods in the Army's history also helped observe the birthday.

— April Blackmon





Calling for SPECIAL

Story and Photos by Mr. Jeffrey Castro

THE U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command, commonly known as CID, has an all-points bulletin out for qualified Soldiers who want to become special agents.

During peacetime and war, CID agents investigate felony-level crimes in which the Army has an interest; provide protective services for Department of Defense leaders; and work closely with other federal, state and local law-enforcement and intelligence agencies to solve crimes and combat terrorism around the world.

Agents are trained at the U.S. Army Military Police School, with advanced training available in a wide range of specialized investigative disciplines. Specialties include counter-narcotics, economic-crime investigation and computer crime investigation, among others. CID has more than 200 offices worldwide, and even has an airborne detachment at Fort Bragg, N.C.

"We're always looking for qualified prospects to join CID, and special agents are a unique breed," said Special Agent Paul Hudson, CID chief of operations. "Living the

law-enforcement lifestyle is a challenge that our special agents willingly accept and dedicate their lives to. It takes a special kind of person to muster that type of dedication."

Special agents also have the opportunity to receive advanced law-enforcement training at the FBI National Academy, the Canadian Police College and at George Washington University, where they can pursue a master's degree in forensic science.

"Educating our agents in all facets of law enforcement is a top priority within CID," said Special Agent Hudson. "We strive to give the agents all the best training available, because a smarter agent makes for a stronger Army."

Prior military or civilian law-enforcement experience is preferred, but it is not a requirement to enter the program. There are numerous Soldier and civilian special agents throughout CID who come from various military occupational specialties, ranging from field artillerymen to administrative clerks.

Special Agent Nicholas Pappas, who was a light-wheeled



Mr. Jeffrey Castro works in the CID Public Affairs Office.

AGENTS



vehicle mechanic before becoming a CID special agent said: “Coming from a line unit gave me a lot of insight into how units operate. So I understand the field mentality of the Soldier. I understand the ‘food chain’ and at which points the system can break down.”

Special Agent Pappas has worked alongside other CID special agents, as well as other federal and local law-enforcement personnel during his nine years with the organization. “Agents are given a lot of independence, so you have to have a lot of self-discipline,” he said.

Marianne Godin, chief of the accreditation division, said that regardless of an applicant’s background, he must possess excellent communication skills and must be able to interact with people from varied backgrounds.

“Becoming a special agent takes more than just being good at the pistol range or having book smarts,” Ms. Godin said. “A special agent has to learn how to adjust his method of communication to get to the information he’s looking for. He must learn how to uncover information from someone’s nonverbal cues as well.”

Soldiers interested in becoming CID special agents should contact their nearest CID offices. 



Qualifying for Training

To qualify for training as a CID agent, an applicant must be a U.S. citizen;

- ❑ must be at least 21 years old;

- ❑ must have at least two years of military experience but not more than 10 years in the military;

- ❑ must meet specified physical-fitness standards and have

normal color vision, among other requirements.

Additionally, applicants

- ❑ must be able to speak and write clearly;

- ❑ must have two years of college or at least 60 semester credit hours;

- ❑ must hold the maximum grade of E-5 (non-promotable);

- ❑ must be able to complete 60 months of service obligation upon completion of the Apprentice Special Agent Course;

- ❑ must have no record of psychological or pathological personality disorders and no record of unsatisfactory credit;

- ❑ must be of suitable character as determined through a Single Scope Background Investigation leading to a top-secret clearance;

- ❑ and must have no civil-court or court-martial convictions.

FEMALE AVENGER CREWMEMBERS

CAMP BLANDING, Fla.

TWO Florida National Guard women have become the first female Avenger anti-aircraft weapon system crewmembers, a Military Occupational Specialty that was restricted to males until October 2006.



Spcs. Sorimar Perez and Amanda Landers are assigned to Battery C, 1st Battalion, 265th Air Defense Artillery, in Daytona Beach. Both trained at the Regional Training Institute at Camp Blanding, and graduated in April 2007.

The Avenger is a lightweight, highly mobile and transportable surface-to-air missile/gun weapon system. It provides mobile, short-range air-defense protection against air and ground attacks.

To graduate, Spcs. Landers and Perez learned to operate global positioning devices, radio systems and other devices used peripherally with the Avenger. They also learned the system's operation, maintenance and configurations.

— Staff Sgt. C.G. Maldonado, Florida National Guard Public Affairs Office



CARSON BREAKS BLOOD-DRIVE RECORDS

FORT CARSON, Colo.

FORT Carson recently set the Department of Defense's record for the most blood collected in a single-day drive.

The spring blood drive broke the U.S. Military Academy's 20-year record for highest collection of 2,800 units by collecting 3,367 units. And Colorado's highest record for a single drive, at 2,400 units, was also broken.

More than 100 medical professionals were brought in to screen donors and collect blood during the drive, which took place at both Fort Carson and the U.S. Air Force Academy.

— Douglas M. Rule, Fort Carson PAO

GUARD TROOPS AID IN CLEANUP

GREENSBURG, Kan.

MORE than 300 members of the Kansas National Guard were activated in response to a tornado that almost destroyed the town of Greensburg in May.

Guard members assisted in search-and-rescue efforts in the wake of the tornado, which was classified at the highest rating given by the National Weather Service.

The Kansas Army Guard's 278th Sustainment Brigade established a joint task force near the incident site. In addition to search-and-rescue efforts, the troops assisted in logistical support, debris clearing, law-enforcement support, building shelters and distributing food and water.

Iowa Guard troops also worked with civilian first responders moving sand, filling sand bags and building temporary dams to mitigate the effects of rising river waters.

— Sgt. Sara Wood, American Forces Press Service.



WRAMC INTRODUCES 3-D VISION SYSTEM

Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Washington, D.C.

VIRTUAL reality is now used in the military's first three-dimensional, minimally invasive surgery clinic at Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

Minimally invasive surgery, or laparoscopy, uses tiny incisions and typically involves a telescopic lens that is connected to a video camera. A recent surgery at WRAMC was the first in which the military has used the 3-D vision system to help visualize and guide a surgeon during a laparoscopic procedure.

The 3-D laparoscopy device is part of a bigger project involving robotic surgery and minimally invasive surgery in which the Army is introducing new technologies at all military health-care facilities.

— Kristin Ellis, WRAMC "Stripe"



SOLDIERS SUPPORT JTF NORTH

FORT BLISS, Texas

SOLDIERS from the 1st Squadron, 6th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, recently supported the U.S. Border Patrol's El Paso Sector.

The 1st Sqdn., based at Fort Carson, Colo., deployed to the U.S.-Mexico border as part of a Joint Task Force-North homeland-security-support mission.

JTF-North, a subordinate command of U.S. Northern Command, supports the nation's federal law-enforcement agencies.

While supporting the Border Patrol with real-world missions, the squadron was also able to perform many of its mission-essential tasks, because the terrain and environment in the El Paso area are similar to that of Iraq and Afghanistan.

JTF North, based at Fort Bliss's Biggs Army Airfield, is a joint-service command of active-duty and reserve-component Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines.

— Maj. Deanna Baque, Fort Bliss, Texas

JMRC SOLDIERS TRAIN NATO FORCES

Hohenfels, Germany

SOLDIERS at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center shared their knowledge of how to react to improvised explosive devices during convoy operations with 40 soldiers from 12 NATO countries at a recent counter-IED exercise.

According to Lt. Col. Rodney Butler of Allied Land Component Command in Heidelberg, Germany, the 10-day course taught coalition troops how to train those preparing for deployment to Afghanistan to deal with IEDs. NATO troops watched Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment, in three training scenarios and IED situations.

— Spc. Jerry Wilson, 7th Army Joint Multinational Training Command PAO



M-4 CARBINE — SOLDIERS' WEAPON OF CHOICE

THE M-4 carbine is the Army's primary combat rifle for infantry, ranger and special-operations forces.

Since its introduction in 1991 the M-4 has proven to be accurate and easy to shoot and maintain, officials said.

The carbine's collapsible stock and shortened barrel make it ideal for Soldiers operating in vehicles or within the confines of urban terrain.

The carbine is the highest-rated weapon by Soldiers in combat, according to the Directorate of Combat Developments at Fort Benning, Ga. — *Army News Service*



WALLET CARDS FOR WOUNDED SOLDIER AND FAMILY HOTLINE AVAILABLE


CALL TO DUTY
U.S. ARMY
BOOTS ON THE GROUND


WOUNDED SOLDIER AND FAMILY HOTLINE
 1-800-984-8523
 overseas DSN 312-328-0002
 stateside DSN 328-0002
 email: wsfsupport@conus.army.mil

The purpose of the hotline is two-fold:

- To offer wounded, injured, or ill Soldiers and their family members a way to share concerns on the quality of patient care.
- To provide senior Army leaders with visibility on medically-related issues so they can properly allocate resources to better serve Soldiers and families.

The hotline is an avenue to gather information about medical care as well as suggest ways we can improve our medical support systems.

The hotline has not been established to circumvent the chain of command, but rather to give Soldiers and family members an additional means to resolve medical-related issues. Any type of retribution directed towards those who use the hotline will not be tolerated.


CALL TO DUTY
U.S. ARMY
BOOTS ON THE GROUND

The Army's 24-hour Wounded Soldier and Family Hotline offers wounded and injured Soldiers and their family members a way to seek help to solve medical issues. Wallet-sized laminated information cards were recently shipped to commands Armywide, and the card template can be reproduced as fliers for posting in common areas. One source for copies of the template is: www.army.mil/publications/soldiersmagazine.

— ARNEWS

TRICARE GLOBAL REMOTE OVERSEAS

IF you are an active-duty member or active duty Family member assigned to a remote overseas location, you may be eligible to enroll in TRICARE Global Remote Overseas.

The TGRO call center in overseas areas aids in coordinating host-nation care in remote locations.

To view the TGRO fact sheet, visit www.tricare.mil/Factsheets/view-factsheet.cfm?id=279. To view other fact sheets, go to www.tricare.mil/factsheets/. — ARNEWS

TRAINING, TECHNOLOGY SAVE LIVES IN IRAQ

EXPANDED training in combat life-saving procedures has resulted in a greater-than-98-percent survival rate for U.S. troops injured in Iraq, a coalition surgeon said.

Soldiers are surviving traumatic injuries at an unprecedented rate, said Lt. Col. Jason Wiemann, the Multinational Division-Baghdad surgeon. He also said the Improved Combat Life Savers Course teaches “emergency skills to non-medical Soldiers based on the injury patterns that we’ve been seeing during this conflict.”

Army personnel identified three main types of injuries afflicting U.S. troops in Iraq and shaped the training around those, Lt. Col. Wiemann said. The injuries include massive bleeding from extremity wounds, trauma to the chest cavity in which air pockets develop and obstruction of airways.

To treat such injuries, Soldiers are trained in the use of pressure bandages, tourniquets, nasal airway tubes, needles, litters and hemostatic dressings designed to create “an almost instantaneous clot” on areas of arterial bleeding, Lt. Col. Wiemann said.

Despite the importance of rapid, superficial treatment at the time of injury, getting wounded troops to medical treatment facilities remains vital to their survival, he said. — ARNEWS

ARMY VALUES POSTERS GET NEW LOOK

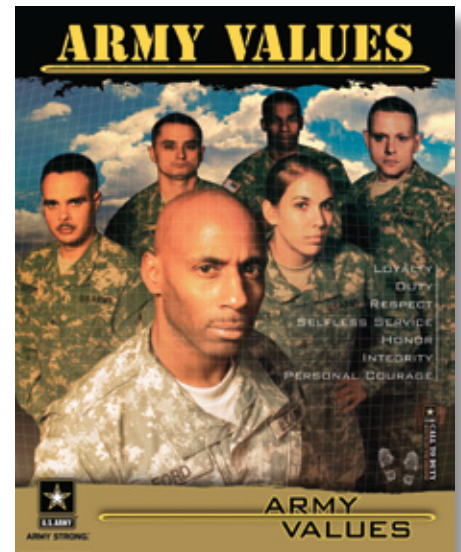
THE Army recently issued new versions of the Army Values posters. The original posters were first published nine years ago.

The intent of the posters is to re-emphasize and reinvigorate Army values, according to Army G-1.

Army culture promotes certain norms of conduct, which include a unique service ethic expected of every Soldier — to make personal sacrifices in selfless service to the nation.

The posters may be viewed and downloaded from www.armyg1.army.mil/HR/ARMYVALUES.ASP.

— ARNEWS



ARMY TO FIELD IMPROVED BODY ARMOR

THE new Improved Outer Tactical Vest, three pounds lighter and more protective than the current version, will soon be issued to Soldiers deploying to Iraq and Afghanistan, said Brig. Gen. R. Mark Brown of Program Executive Office-Soldier.

The vest now has a higher cut in the underarm area, which will eliminate the need to attach the underarm protector.



The vest’s integrated throat protector provides the same protection as the current attachable version, but is more comfortable.

A single-stage quick release added to the front of the vest allows Soldiers to take off the IOTV and its attachments with one pull. The vest then falls to the ground in two pieces and can be put back together in minutes. — ARNEWS

SNIPERS RECEIVE NEW WEAPON

TASK Force Fury Soldiers in Afghanistan are the first in a combat zone to receive the new XM-110 semi-automatic sniper system.

The rifle has several new features, the most prominent being an improved rate of fire.

Older rifles such as the M-24 are bolt-action weapons that require the user to manually feed another round into the chamber after each shot. The XM-10's automatic firing capabilities will decrease lag time between shots.

A metal tube that fits over the rifle barrel reduces the signature blast and eliminates the cloud of dust kicked up by the gases emitted through the barrel. — **ARNEWS**



\$20K BONUS FOR SOME CAPTAINS

A NEW \$20,000 Critical Skills Retention Bonus is available to more than 7,000 regular-Army captains who agree to remain on active duty beyond their initial active-duty service obligations.

The bonus targets officers who have almost completed their initial active-duty service obligations and are willing to remain on active duty for an additional three years. Other incentives include the chance to attend graduate school or military school, transfer to another branch or functional area, or selection of a post of choice.



The incentives will help the Army retain company-grade officers with valuable experience, said Col. Paul Aswell, chief of the Officer Division in the Directorate of Military Personnel Management, Army G1.

Army officials want to increase capabilities and reduce long-term stress. Those desires have resulted in the need for nearly 6,000 captains and majors in the Army's ranks since 2004, Col. Aswell said.

CSRB critical branches include air defense, adjutant general, armor, chemical, engineer, field artillery, finance, infantry, military intelligence, military police, ordnance, quartermaster, signal and transportation.

Officers originally commissioned in these branches are eligible for all incentives. Officers commissioned into the Army Nurse Corps or Medical Service Corps are eligible for the CSRB.

Aviation officers are not eligible at this time.

Eligible captains must have a date of rank between March 1, 2005, and Jan. 1, 2007. — **ARNEWS**

"A SURVIVOR'S GUIDE TO BENEFITS: TAKING CARE OF OUR OWN"

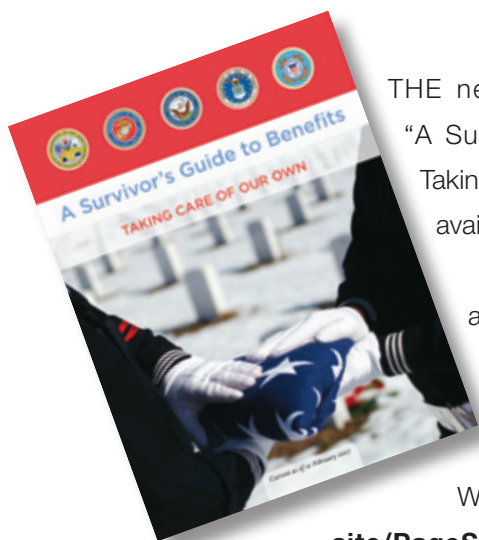
THE newly updated publication "A Survivor's Guide to Benefits: Taking Care of Our Own" is now available.

This and other publications about military health care, military pay and deployment are available on the National Military Family Association's

Web site at **www.nmfa.org/**

[site/PageServer?pagename=home_](http://www.nmfa.org/site/PageServer?pagename=home_)

[familymemberbenefits](http://www.nmfa.org/site/PageServer?pagename=home_familymemberbenefits). — **ARNEWS**



COMBAT PATCHES AUTHORIZED AT LOWER ECHELONS

THE Army has changed its policy on the wear of combat patches as a result of the way Soldiers and their units now deploy.

Since 1945 the intent behind the wear of the combat patch, known as the “shoulder sleeve insignia-former wartime service,” was to recognize Soldiers’ participation in combat operations. However, this only applied to Soldiers who were serving with such large-echelon deployed units as separate brigades, divisions, corps, Army commands or higher.

Once Soldiers report to their first units, they wear their command’s patch on their left sleeves. When deployed to a designated combat zone, Soldiers may also wear the patch of the company-level or higher unit on their right sleeves.

The new guidance states that when echelons below company level deploy, Soldiers in those units may now wear the combat patch of the lowest-echelon command they deploy with, as long as it’s at company level or higher.

As before, Soldiers who have earned multiple combat patches may choose which patch to wear. Soldiers may also elect not to wear a combat patch. — *ARNEWS*



STORIES OF CONSPICUOUS COURAGE

SERVICEMEMBERS who have been awarded some of the country’s highest military honors are profiled in a new edition of the Pentagon Channel documentary “Recon.”

“Conspicuous Courage” airs Fridays, at noon, EST. — *ARNEWS*



“Conspicuous Courage” will also be available via podcast and video on demand at www.pentagonchannel.mil.

ARMY ANESTHESIA PROGRAM LAUDED

AN Army Medical Department Center and School program was ranked second in the nation by U.S. News and World Report magazine in this year’s edition of “America’s Best Graduate Schools.”

The Army graduate program in anesthesia nursing missed the top spot in the Nursing-Anesthesia category by only a tenth of a point. The program at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, produces more than 90 percent of the Army’s certified registered nurse anesthetists.

The anesthesia nursing program comprises a year of classroom training and another 18 months of clinical training at one of several Phase 2 sites, located in military hospitals and medical centers throughout the nation.

Classes average about 40 people and are open to Army, Air Force and Department of Veterans Affairs registered nurses. Students are required to have a bachelor’s degree in nursing science and a year or two of nursing experience to compete for a seat in the class.

At the completion of training, students receive a master’s degree from a partnering university, which offers administrative support and issues the degrees.

In June, a new contract partnered the Army with Northeastern University in Boston. — *ARNEWS*



Many of the Army's most compelling stories, images and videos are never seen or shared simply because the storytellers are unaware of a powerful new tool, which provides an arsenal of capabilities to tell the Army story. With this tool it's easy to instantly reach beyond local units and communities.

EFFECT

WWW.ARMY.MIL/CORE



The CORE makes sharing news easy.

The Army's Content Online Resource Enterprise (CORE) empowers public-affairs professionals to communicate the Army story to a wider, global audience. The CORE is a customized Web-based content-management system that handles all of the text, images and videos seen throughout **Army.mil**. This simple tool allows users to submit content and have their stories seen anywhere in the world. For more information and to become a part of the CORE, please visit **www.army.mil/core**.



CORE 
Communicate for Effect
WWW.ARMY.MIL/CORE

LOYALTY

*Bear true faith and allegiance to
the U.S. Constitution, the Army,
your unit and other Soldiers.*

"The price of freedom is eternal vigilance"
— Thomas Jefferson

U.S. ARMY
CALL TO DUTY
BOOTS ON THE GROUND



U.S. ARMY

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ARMY VALUES



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ACHIEVING WHAT YOU NEVER
BELIEVED POSSIBLE IS ARMY STRONG.**

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Sergeant James Jamerson

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